



**Minutes
October 11, 2011**

Meeting held at Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA

**Podcast Presentation: CTTAB podcasts available at
<http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/city-seattle-citizens-telecommunications/id289756959>**

For the October meeting, if you listen to the podcast, these are the starting and finishing times for specific presentations made at the meeting:

1. **Century Link Broadband deployment and Low-Income Internet program:** 20:50 – 1:02:13 (Approx 41 minutes)
2. **WAVE Cable/broadband and Broadstripe Transfer:** 1:03:30– 1:28:45 (Approx 25 min)
3. **Broadband/cable Internet Infrastructure Basics** – Presentation by Tony Perez: 1:32:52 – 1:51:25 (Approx 20 minutes) Also see accompanying Powerpoint slides posted on the CTTAB minutes site.

Attending:

Public: Ben Krokower, Jonathan Tidmore, Dorene Cornwell, CenturyLink (Sue Anderson, Mary Taylor, Brian Stading, Meg Andrews)
WAVE (Jim Penney), Brady Dibble (WA Power Project - WAPP), Brady Dibble (WAPP), , Ken Meyer, Katrina Kennard (Communities Connect Network/EdLab Group), Raymona Baldwin (Disability Pride)

CTTAB members: Ted Schmitt, (Chair), Stacey Wedlake, Roni Ayalla, Brian Hsi, Bryan Dosono, Daniel Carillo, Jr., Robert Dolin, Will Pugh (Vice-Chair), Marina Martin

Absent: Karen Manuel

Staff: David Keyes, Tony Perez, Bill Schrier, Alice Lawson, Brenda Tate

MINUTES

- 1) Agenda and September minutes approved. Motion for approval made by Roni Ayalla and second by Stacey Wedlake.
- 2) No Public Comments were made
- 3) Director's Report: Bill Schrier

Bill provided an overview of the Mayor's proposed budget. The City Council is currently deliberating and will make final budget decisions by Thanksgiving. The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) budget reduction target was 5-7%. DoIT lost 27 positions from 214 over the last 4 years. If accepted as proposed, the department would be reduced by 5 positions.

There were significant cuts in Parks' community center hours and employee positions. Bill was asked about the impact of this on the technology programs. He will send out follow-up information.

[Follow-up note: See more on the City 2012 Budget at <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/>

DoIT presentations on the budget are available at http://clerk.seattle.gov/~public/budgetdocs/2012/1005_7_DoIT.pdf and a Council staff examination of the budget is available at http://clerk.seattle.gov/~public/budgetdocs/2012/3_DoIT_1024.pdf]

- 4) CenturyLink Presentation by Sue Anderson, VP and General Manager & Mary Taylor, State and Local Government Affairs Director with Brian Stading, Regional President for CenturyLink's Northwest Region and Meg Andrews, Market Development Manager- Seattle

Mary – She has developed some understanding of the City's digital inclusion work through discussion with David Keyes and their work together on the statewide Communities Connect Network Council on Digital Inclusion and WA State High Speed Internet Task Force.

CenturyLink, previously CenturyTel was established in 1930, here since 1997 and has been growing. Prior to the QWest acquisition, they covered about 30% of Washington land mass.

Will Pugh asked, "What is Broadband to them?" – The response was that 1st generation broadband was 1.5 Mbs and up from there.

Their company philosophy and services are very based on a local model, with a great deal of autonomy to develop local partnerships and investments. They also want to be responsive to local customer needs.

Brian is the Northwest regional manager, responsible for WA, OR, CA

Regional headquarters are now in Seattle. They are the third largest telecom in US now.

There was presentation and then discussion on their costs and challenges in deployment vs land use and other public policies.

According to CenturyLink, in some cases it costs them 75% more to deploy here than in a number of other cities. There is a myth out there that we don't want to invest in Seattle.

What blocks deployment of higher speed? Answer: Cost and barriers from Directors rules: permitting, fees, etc

They are looking for considerations from the City to help facilitate their buildout.

Mary: They have identified about 90 projects that they couldn't complete due to cost. Barriers to them include:

- 1) Single service rule (req to place a meter at the location getting an easement – City Light rule, done to prevent emergency responders from cutting wrong service?), 2) SDOT Directors rule, 3) ADA ramps (curb replacement), 4) Professional engineering stamp requirement (if trenching 300 ft, need engineer on it, \$10-15k).

Century Link believes these rules can be adjusted to meet policy goals as well as facilitate deployment.

Brian: CenturyLink is significantly different from Qwest; there is more interest in working through the barriers to deploying more broadband infrastructure. They have about a year to show progress in Seattle market.

Part of SDOT Director's rule issue is a requirement to get permission from abutting property owners.

The rule comes from parking strip ownership - Rule went from requiring neighbor approval within 100 feet to 300 feet.

Current large switching cabinets also are required to have an electrical meter at each site. They are talking to City Light and looking at trialing a non-meter service base that lowers space requirements and are also looking at underground options. They are doing landscaping around the cabinets to help hide them.

Fiber is being installed to the switches. Each box reaches 70-900 homes, depending upon topography.

What speed comes out of the box? 40 MB up, 20 down. Have higher speed for business areas.

Will: "What are the 5 most friendly cities to supporting broadband development?": CenturyLink answer: Auburn, Renton, Auburn partnership. Phoenix, Denver, Salt Lake City, Des Moines

CenturyLink Low Cost Internet Program for low-income residents: Meg described the new program, developed as part of the terms of their acquisition of Qwest:

Cost is \$9.95 for one year or \$14.95 to get 1.5Mb service for remaining 4 years if you sign up for 5 years,

As a rule, the qualifying customer will gain access to

1.5 Mbps downstream capability, except in markets where 1.5 Mbps is unavailable, in which case the customer will gain access to 768 kbps broadband capability. Higher bandwidth services, where available, will be offered at a comparable discount:

1.5 Mbps/6.5 Mbps service for \$19.95 per month with no contract requirements, or \$24.95 per month for 12 Mbps if available.

Stacey – noticed \$200 termination fee as a barrier. CenturyLink is going to look into this. Their service offering of \$19.95 has no contract requirement.

Netbook - \$150 will get shipped to the user.

[MORE INFO:

More details and the application materials are available on CenturyLink's site <http://www.centurylink.com/home/internetbasics/?rid=internetbasics> You can also learn more from the CenturyLink news release at <http://news.centurylink.com/index.php?s=43&item=2860>

and the overview on the Benton Foundation policy site <http://benton.org/node/92111>]

Assistive Technology: Dorene Cornwell asked whether the low income program and the netbooks to be offered were being loaded with assistive technology or if there was any consideration of people with disabilities.

CenturyLink staff did not believe there was any, but was going to look into this.

5) WAVE Cable/Broadband – Jim Penney, James A. Penney, Executive Vice President (30 min)

The process for transfer of Broadstripe Cable's system to WAVE and City consideration to approve the transfer is moving forward. The expectation is that transfer will be effective Dec 24

Wave serves WA, OR, and CA. Each region is connected with a 10 Gig link.

In the city of San Francisco, they serve from central San Francisco down to Palo Alto.

They currently have about 327,000 "revenue generating units (Telephone, Cable, Data)

Their service offers 50-60 HD channels and Video on Demand (up to 15,000 hrs now)

For data, they have updated all of their system. They provide s up to 50Mb with a wide range of service tiers, starting with a DSL equivalent.

They are a competitive local exchange provider. They use a metaswitch, much smaller profile at less power and more capacity than prior boxes.

Their “All you can eat” bundled services product runs at \$39.95/month. - 1000 min national, with/regional calling service plan too.

WAVE has a call center in Kirkland, about 120 seats and approx 100 other call-in service reps, This center is also linked to their other call centers to transfer calls if too busy They like to have their call center close to corporate offices to ensure good oversight.

The Network Operations Center (NOC) is in Kirkland. Once approved, it will take about 3 months to integrate their Internet points of presence (POPs) in SF, Seattle, and Portland.

There are some cable drops (connections from home to the cable node) and areas of Broadstripe that still need upgrading. However most areas are now up to 750Mb service with the Broadstripe upgrade that is being implemented. They want to get this up to 850 Mb.

In Portland WAVE acquired seven underperforming systems and have invested in upgrades.

Broadstripe currently uses third party to provide phone service. With Wave, this will use their phone services.

Wide Open Networks is getting Broadstripe system in the Midwest and another company based in East Coast is getting east coast.

WAVE is a a private company with private equity with long term investment view. Other principals all have been engaged in cable since early 80's. These include Steve Weed from Seattle area is CEO; was employed running Summit, then Millennium Digital Media. Steve Friedman, COO worked with Jim at Northland.

Most of Broadstripe's current headend will be replaced by better quality facilities brought in from WAVE's Port Orchard headend. They sweep and balance to improve video quality distribution.

Improvements are needed at the headend to improve capacity to manage cable modems.

Customer Service: The existing call center is in Michigan; Wide Open West will take it over initially while billing system is transitioned. WAVE believes customer service will improved markedly after Wave takes over and especially when transferred to Kirkland local customer service office. Their Call Center manager previously ran Nordstrom customer services.

WAVE will offer business solutions services as well.

They don't require contracts.

WAVE likes to see consistency and have the same pricing and close menu of services company wide.

6) Cable/Telco infrastructure overview - - Tony Perez, Office of Cable Communications

Tony presented a talk with Powerpoint slides explaining the design of the signal distribution system for broadband systems, covering the older phone company systems, cable company infrastructure and what fiber systems provide. The presentation slides and the audio podcast of his presentation will be available on the CTTAB minutes page (seattle.gov/cttab)

Cable spectrum in 6 mhz each channel, each provides about 40 mb transmission. These can be bonded together for faster service, but bonding them together uses up video space.

There has been about a 100 fold increase in demand every ten years. This is especially significant for the amount of video traffic sent via Internet (IP).

Copper wire based systems (the phone company infrastructure is the slowest of the broadband deployment systems, followed by cable which uses some copper coax wires, followed by full fiber deployment as the fastest, largest capacity Internet pipe.

Our speed needs are growing fast and the deployment is not keeping up with other countries and areas of the US. (See last slide showing comparative bandwidth sizes.

7) Cable Office Report - Tony Perez, Office of Cable Communications - See attached report covering

Broadstripe/Wave Transfer Update: The legislation regarding the transfer will be introduced at City Council on Monday, October 17. There will be a public hearing on November 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Council chambers. We are in the process of completing our technical, legal and financial review. The Cable Office will present its report to Council on November 7.

Other items include:

- Disposition of the old SCAN public access tv building and equipment is completed.
- Broadstripe Internet Tax unrefunded taxes will be coming to the City by November 15. City will return to ask CTTAB for ideas on the funds can be used for the benefit of residents of the Broadstripe area.
- Century Link discussions ongoing about the placement of infrastructure in residential areas.
- Comcast "a la carte offering called MyTV Choice is being tested. Seattle is listed as one of the secondary test markets.
- Set top boxes: They will soon be meeting with representative from Comcast and SCL to discuss energy efficient set top boxes.
- WATOA Conference: Annual Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors conference in Tacoma on October 13 and 14.

Tony was congratulated for his appointment to the **FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age** ("Diversity Committee"). The Committee advises the FCC regarding policies and practices that will enhance diversity in telecommunications and related industries.

- 8) **Get Online Week Wrap-up and Committee Report** – Thirteen sites participated, providing 12 open houses and 10 workshops. See more detail in Community Technology Report attached. We don't have final numbers on attendees, and Committee Chair Karen Manuel is not able to attend this month, so this discussion will be covered in more detail in November. Thanks for helping out to the CTTAB members (Daniel, Karen, Stacey, Ted, Bryan, Ted, and past member Fran Clifton, as well as DoIT staff member Sarah McCaghren)

- 9) **Other Committee Reports** - Tabled to next meeting

- 10) **Community Technology Report** - David Keyes, Community Technology Program

- **Technology Matching Fund** legislation for the 23 projects was passed. Project descriptions and photos are posted at <http://seattle.gov/tech/tmf/Projects2011.htm>.
- **Brainstorm** See the October edition of Brainstorm at <http://seattle.gov/tech/brainstorm/>.
- **Get Online Week October 3 – 8, 2011**
- Thirteen community computing centers participated in Get Online Week, October 3-8 (seattle.gov/getonline).
- **Seattle Communities Online "Boost" grant** contracts completed and projects are underway.
- **EdLab Group Communities Connect Network Project** web portal beta site up. Site to launch soon at www.communitiesconnect.org.
- **Puget SoundOff & Microsoft:** We are developing a partnership with Microsoft FUSE Lab for evaluation and implementation of more mobility features.

11) Administration

Subcommittee meetings – Committee chairs were encouraged to make sure their committees met before the next meeting,

Next meeting: The Board polled members and a few would be absent on November 8th, so the meeting will be moved. Hope is to have the meeting at Seattle Community Media. Ted will poll members on Nov 1 or 15th meeting. [This was since decided to be Nov 15th]

Twitter: CTTAB has @cttab Twitter account.

